



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hugh R. Sharkey et al. Art Unit : 3739
Serial No. : 09/884,859 Examiner : R. Gibson
Filed : June 18, 2001
Title : METHOD OF TREATING INTERVERTEBRAL DISC TISSUE EMPLOYING
ATTACHMENT MECHANISM

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

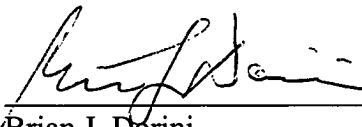
REQUEST FOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DOMESTIC PRIORITY

The present application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/792,628, filed February 22, 2001, which claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/185,221, filed February 25, 2000, as indicated on the Preliminary Amendment filed in this case on June 18, 2001. However, no acknowledgement of the priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119(e) and 120 has been made. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge the claim to priority and forward such acknowledgement to the attorney of record.

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: APRIL 23, 2004



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